# This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 4 Pages


The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurately and editorially interpretative of matters affecting labor organizing in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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No Man is free who is not master of himself.—Epictetus.


WHOLE NO. 1497 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1939. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 29, NO. 51


## FACING *the* FACTS

*With* PHILIP PEARL

The secret and confidential files of the National Labor Relations Board got a public airing this week before the Congressional Committee investigating the Labor Board.

Many assorted varieties of limburger were exposed but the one with the strongest aroma was a memorandum from David J. Saposs, the Labor Board's chief economist, to Board Member Edwin S. Smith.

It seems that in March, 1937, Mr. Saposs had read an advance copy of a speech Mr. Smith was to deliver at some public gathering. Now Mr. Saposs has been under investigation by the Dies Committee for his writings and association with so-called Communist front organizations. He is no friend of the American Federation of Labor. But Mr. Saposs, himself, was apparently shocked by certain statements in Mr. Smith's speech. So he sat down and wrote him a note.

"Although my sympathies are well known," Mr. Saposs frankly acknowledged, "I think it is not good policy for an agency like our board publicly to place itself on record as endorsing the position of one side or another."

The "sympathies" Mr. Saposs referred to were his sympathies for the C. I. O. When he warned Mr. Smith about "endorsing the position of one side or another," he meant the A. F. of L. or the C. I. O. The statements in Mr. Smith's speech which shocked him were outright endorsements of the position of the C. I. O.

All this is bad enough. But bear in mind that the chief emphasis in the memo from Mr. Smith was placed on the word "publicly." In other words, Mr. Saposs pleaded guilty of sympathizing with the C. I. O. privately. He didn't criticize Mr. Smith for entertaining the same views. He merely warned Mr. Smith it would not be "good policy" for a member of the board "publicly to place itself on record" as to his private convictions.

### Actions Speak Louder Than Words

This was clever advice. Unquestionably, it was followed. For more than two years Mr. Smith and a great many employes of the Labor Board carefully refrained from giving public utterance to their bias against the A. F. of L. and for the C. I. O. They merely showed this bias in the decisions and official actions of the Labor Board.

The Board pretended to be perfectly neutral. And all the time it operated as an agency of the C. I. O. When the American Federation of Labor protested, the Labor Board disavowed any partiality with righteous indignation. It even spent thousands of dollars piling up statistics in an attempt to justify itself. Statistics can be twisted to prove anything but they do not reveal what lies in the hearts and minds of those whose actions are thus computed.

The Saposs-Smith incident was only one of the many disclosures before the Congressional Committee which shocked the nation. It was also shown that Mr. Edwin S. Smith had put himself in the position of practically suggesting to a great merchandising establishment, by which he was formerly employed, a boycott against a hosiery mill against which the C. I. O. had called a strike. Another interesting sidelight brought out by the committee before it adjourned its hearings over the holidays was the peculiar solicitude shown by board agents for Communists.

### Pop. Goes the Wessel

Of course, these revelations were bound to annoy the C. I. O. Scratch John L. Lewis and he roars. It didn't take him long to pop this time.

For more than a year Mr. Lewis had maintained the position that it was heresy for labor to advocate changes in the National Labor Relations Act. But as soon as he saw that his own private monopoly of Labor Board favor was in danger of the disclosures of the Congressional Committee, Mr. Lewis accomplished a sudden and miraculous about-face. He came out for amendments to the Act. And what amendments!

Mr. Lewis wants to bill employers who violate the N. L. R. A. He wants to compel the Labor Board to designate plant-wide and industry-wide units for collective bargaining by law. At least, he says he does.

Now Mr. Lewis knows his proposals are ridiculous and impossible of achievement. He made them for only one purpose. He thought maybe he could scare off employers who wish to undermine the Act. Mr. Lewis knows but one kind of strategy. That is, bluff. The danger this time is that his bluff may turn out to be a boomerang. If he had any sense at all he would have realized that in the first place. Now he has only succeeded in strengthening the determination of anti-union interests to emasculate the act. It will be increasingly difficult to protect the fundamental guarantees in the Act from being scuttled by Congress. If Congress does decide to pull a Graf Spee on the Wagner Act, labor has John L. Lewis to thank. It will be one of the greatest disservices that this big, bold, bluffing, blustering boob has done organized labor.

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

# A. F. of L. Starts Campaign To Raise Unemployment Compensation Standards

**Green Mobilizes Organized Labor to Fight Reduction In Federal Unemployment Tax; Declares Benefits Paid to Jobless by States Are Altogether Too Small and the Waiting Period Too Long; Urges Creation of Advisory Committee to Study All Aspects of Unemployment Compensation.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Washington, D. C.—In a letter to all State Federations of Labor, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called for a concerted campaign to raise the standards of unemployment compensation administered by the States.

Mr. Green also urged the State Federations to prevail upon their Senators and Representatives to support legislation for the establishment of a representative advisory committee by Congress to study improved benefit standards.

Until higher standards are made effective, Mr. Green declared, the American Federation of Labor will oppose social security tax reductions. Mr. Green's letter follows:

"As soon as Congress convenes in January, we shall be faced with a drive to reduce the federal tax on employers of eight per cent to three per cent.

"The justification which is being advocating such reduction will offer is that there are now large idle reserves in the unemployment compensation accounts of many States. The total funds available for benefit throughout the nation as of October 31, 1939, were $1,419,956,000. This is an increase of $256,274,000 over the funds available as of October 31, 1938. On that date the amount was $963,816,000.

"This increase occurred in spite of the fact that since July of this year seven States have been paying benefits. The amount of benefits, however, has been small compared with the collections. For the current year an average of only $9.54 has been paid out for each dollar collected. Only one State has paid more in benefits than it collected. In 12 States the low ratio of one cent to ten cents has been paid, and only eight have paid more than $0.75 for each dollar collected.

"There is considerable variation among the States in the size of the reserve fund in comparison with the amount of benefits paid within the past year, but 1939 has seen a definite trend toward increasing the adequacy of reserves in practically every part of the country.

### Benefits Do Not Provide Decent Security For Jobless

"The large reserves do not, however, indicate an excessive tax rate. Rather they should emphasize the need to improve benefit standards in every State.

"When the Social Security Act was being considered originally, I emphasized the importance of better benefit standards than those adopted and warned that the money received from taxes might be fully used.

"However, Congress was persuaded that it was unnecessary to write federal standards into the law and that the States in each State would insure full use of the funds.

"The States were concerned that they might not get benefits too high for the expected funds to pay. The result was that standards are too low to provide decent security in any State and have permitted such meager benefits. Where Congress reserves have been accumulated in nearly every State.

### Present Unemployment Tax Must Be Retained and Benefit Standards Raised

"We have used the pressure for tax reductions through the expensive and cumbersome "merit" and "experience" rating systems. When Congress reassembles in January, there will be a vigorous demand from employers of many States to have the federal tax rate cut. The American Federation of Labor believes that the tax reductions should be made until we have had experience under materially better benefit standards and adequate measures were made at the last sessions of State legislatures. I am enclosing a memorandum summarizing the

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# Green Attacks C. I. O. Scheme To Jail Employers For Violation of Labor Act

**Plan to Compel National Labor Relations Board to Fix Plant-Wide or Industry-Wide Collective Bargaining Units Despite the Desires of the Workers Themselves Is Condemned as Violating the Spirit of the Labor Act and Emanating the Principles of Totalitarianism.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor issued the following statement on the proposals of the C. I. O. to amend the National Labor Relations Act so as to provide criminal penalties for its violation and to compel the National Labor Relations Board to establish plant-wide or industry-wide units for collective bargaining without consulting the wishes of the workers concerned:

"Nothing could be calculated to do more harm to labor than the proposals for amendment of the National Labor Relations Act announced by the C. I. O.

"These proposals betray a complete lack of comprehension of the fundamental objective of the Act. That objective is to establish friendly, fair and stable relations between employer and employe. Certainly this cannot be achieved by imposing jail sentences on employers who violate the law. Such a punitive course would only defeat the purposes of the Act. Recognizing this truth, Congress took care to limit the authority of the National Labor Relations Board to applying corrective measures only.

"Furthermore, in this country a man is entitled to a trial by jury before he is sentenced to jail. In the present fact-finding capacity, the Labor Board investigates, issues a complaint, conducts a hearing and judges. Surely such procedure could not be applied in a criminal case. It smacks of Soviet Russia, not America.

"Another C. I. O. proposal would compel the Labor Board to fix plant-wide or industry-wide units for collective bargaining regardless of the wishes of the workers themselves. This not only violates the spirit of the Act but again smacks of totalitarianism.

"It is difficult to exercise restraint when an organization which presumes to speak for labor offers such stupid, ill-considered and vicious amendments to a law regarded as labor's magna charta. Such proposals, coming at a time when organized labor should stand united against attempts to undermine the law, can only injure the interests of American workers. They emanate from an organization which has refused even to discuss labor unity and which appears to be guided by hateful foreign philosophies.

"The American Federation of Labor does not believe the National Labor Relations Act is perfect. We want to see it amended to provide for better administration and we have submitted our amendments to Congress. We do not believe the Act should be used as an instrument of oppression. We believe it should serve as a standard of fair play."

# A. F. of L. Units Warned Not To Aid Lewis's Labor's Non-Partisan League

**Green Declares That "No Officers or Members of Organizations Chartered by the American Federation of Labor Can, Without Violating Decisions of American Federation of Labor Conventions, Accept Membership in the C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League or Give to Said C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League Their Official and Individual Support."**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Washington, D. C.—In a letter sent to National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies and Directly Affiliated Local Unions, President Green of the American Federation of Labor, voicing the action of the Executive Council of the American Federation at Cincinnati, Ohio, and previous conventions, informed the affiliated organizations that Labor's Non-Partisan League "is an accessory to the C. I. O. and antagonistic to the American Federation of Labor," urging compliance with the official action, Mr. Green pointed out that officers and members of the A. F. of L. unions cannot, without violating the law of the American Federation, without violating decisions of American Federation of Labor Conventions, which are the supreme authority of the Federation.

Following is the text of Mr. Green's letter:

TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS, STATE FEDERATIONS OF LABOR, CITY CENTRAL BODIES, AND DIRECTLY AFFILIATED LOCAL UNIONS.

Dear Sire and Brothers:

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor which was held at Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning October 2, 1939, acted upon Resolution No. 79 which dealt with the C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League.

I quote from the resolution which was approved and adopted by the American Federation of Labor Convention, as follows:

"Resolved, That the 59th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor in order to clarify this situation and for the purpose of making the position and orders of the American Federation of Labor effective hereby reaffirms its position and policy toward Labor's Non-Partisan League, declares that it is an accessory to the C. I. O. and antagonistic to the American Federation of Labor."

You will note that the Convention decided and declared that the so-called Labor's Non-Partisan League is an accessory to the C. I. O. and is antagonistic to the American Federation of Labor. The C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League is a political organization, formed by the C. I. O. as the instrumentality through which the said C. I. O. organization plans to carry out and execute its political policies. These political policies of the C. I. O. are in conflict and direct contradiction to the non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

For this reason, members of the American Federation of Labor and organizations chartered by the American Federation of Labor must refrain from having anything whatever to do with the C. I. O. so-called Labor's Non-Partisan League.

The political policies of the American Federation of Labor must be formulated in accordance with its non-

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# A. F. of L. Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Win Three Victories

**Contracts Negotiated With Baltimore Life Insurance Company Covering Employes in Washington, D. C., and Philadelphia; Employes of Home Beneficial Association in Nation's Capital Choose A. F. L. Union As Bargaining Agent.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Washington, D. C.—Officials of the Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents' Unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced three victories in their campaign to organize the field workers employed by insurance companies.

In Philadelphia, Pa., Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents' Local Union No. 21354, affiliated with the A. F. of L., secured a contract covering the agents employed by the Philadelphia. The contract gives the agents a minimum guaranteed salary, five day week, increase in salary on new business written, base relief on amended business, and transportation allowance for use of auto in collecting debit.

The Baltimore Life Insurance Company has approximately twenty-five agents in Philadelphia who will work under the union contract.

The negotiators for the A. F. of L. union were Ernest Wright, Jr., Frank Curdy, George L. Russ, and Ralph U. Boyer.

The Baltimore Life Insurance Company renewed its contract with the Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents' Union No. 21354, affiliated with the A. F. of L., for the agents employed in Washington, D. C.

The original contract was negotiated in October, 1938, and gave substantial increase in salary and improved working conditions which included vacations with pay and a five day week.

In renewing this contract for another year, the company included the agents of the Home Beneficial Association in Washington, D. C. The Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents' Union No. 21354, affiliated with the A. F. of L., was chosen to represent them in collective bargaining with the company.

The Home Beneficial Association has its home office in Richmond, Virginia, and operates in Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. They have approximately $100,000,000 worth of insurance in force.

The organizers of the A. F. of L. who were successful in organizing the agents of the Home Beneficial Association in Washington, D. C., were George L. Russ and Ralph U. Boyer, respectively.

# Important Statement Regarding the A. F. L. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

There is confusing publicity in the daily press about labor organizations among the State and local government employe field. There are two organizations operating in the field each of which claims to be the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; the other is the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America, affiliated with the C. I. O.

The first named organization, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employes, is a regularly established and chartered international union of the American Federation of Labor.

It was chartered in 1936 and at the present time has organizations established in approximately 500 communities in 39 States.

It is a free American Federation of Labor organization with good leadership, and should not be confused with the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America (C. I. O.), which is confined almost entirely to New York City, has a membership of 7,000 or less, and, according to press reports, is controlled by Communists.

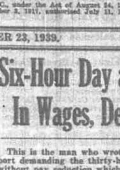
The American Federation of Labor press should clearly differentiate between these organizations when any reference is made to them.

# Six-Hour Day and Five-Day Work Week, Without Reduction In Wages, Demanded by the American Federation of Labor

**Shorter Hours Are Held Imperatively Necessary To Provide Employment for Workers Whose Jobs Are Destroyed Through the Constant Installation of Labor Displacing Machinery by Those Who Own and Control Industry, and For the Hundreds of Thousands of Young People Who Reach Working Age Every Year Only to Find Themselves Facing Compulsory Idleness.**

**The Major Purpose of the Increasing Productive Efficiency of Working Men and Women, Aided by Machinery, Should Not Be the Garnering of Unreasonable Profits for Stockholders, Coupled With the Heartless Tossing of Displaced Workers Into the Unemployed Army With Poverty for Themselves and Their Dependents, But Rather the Mastering of the Machine, Making It Serve the Public Welfare Rather Than Turning It Into a Social Menace.**

**This is the man who wrote the report demanding the thirty-hour week without pay reduction which the 1939 A. F. of L. convention adopted unanimously.**



EDWARD J. GAINOR, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers and Eleventh Vice President of the American Federation of Labor.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

A well documented and resounding declaration demanding the six-hour day and the five-day work week, without reduction in pay, as one method of mitigating the curse of unemployment which bears so heavily on millions of workers, with poverty for themselves and their dependents as the result, featured the declaration of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, mobilizing all of organized labor's forces toward the prompt realization of the shorter hours objective.

The important subject came before the convention in the report of the Committee on Shorter Work Day, written by Delegate Edward J. Gainor, chairman of the committee. Mr. Gainor is president of the National Association of Letter Carriers and eleventh vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

The report emphasized the belief, held by not only the American Federation of Labor but by all other progressive groups, that with business interests everywhere mobilizing the services of inventors to develop labor displacing machinery, whose installation is the major source of our unemployed army numbering millions, the continuing curse of unemployment would be largely mitigated by reducing the length of the work week to thirty hours as rapidly as economic conditions make it advisable, with the important proviso that there shall be no reduction in wages, thus maintaining the purchasing power of the workers which is so essential in providing a market for commodities.

The keynote of the convention's declaration was that machinery which enables working men and women to produce ever larger quantities of commodities with less man power and time, shall not be mobilized by the owners of industry for the sole purpose of profits, regardless of the social injury resulting from such a motive, but that society must master the machine and turn it into a public servant instead of permitting it to function as a public enemy. The best way for society to master the machine in the public interest, the convention held, is to reduce the hours of work in accordance with the increased efficiency under mechanized industry, and that enable the workers to "participate equitably in their increasing productivity."

Following is the report of the Committee on Shorter Work Day which the convention unanimously and enthusiastically adopted:

In submitting this report, your committee desires, with all the earnestness possible, to impress upon the delegates the high importance of the shorter work day, shorter work week, not only on its own account, but as a continuing issue of commanding moment before the American people.

### Shorter Hours and Higher Wages Must Accompany Increasing Efficiency

Dating from many years, the American Federation of Labor, in its succeeding convention declarations, and in its official pronouncements, has insisted with unvarying consistency that the principle of balance must be observed in our economic relations and that shorter hours and higher wages should keep even step with expanding productive efficiency as a condition precedent to the maintenance of National prosperity and as a positive barrier against the menace of broad scale unemployment.

The 1926 Cincinnati Convention of the American Federation of Labor in addressing itself to the shorter work week declared: "That only by universal establishment of the scientifically calculated work day, can we build a continuing and enduring condition of National prosperity."

The 1926 Atlantic City Convention of the American Federation of Labor, declared in substance, that the only answer to the mechanization of industry was that the workers should participate equitably in their increasing productivity.

Now, seven years ago, the American Federation of Labor, in its 52nd Annual Convention, held in this very hall, when confronted with the problem of some twelve million idle workers, reaffirmed its moving philosophy and in doing so, urged the early adoption of the six-hour, five-day work week without any reduction of wages, as its chief objective. It also, with clarion voice, called on the American people to join in the accomplishment of this high objective.

### A. F. of L. Has Waged Long Fight to Shorten Hours to Reduce Unemployment

The story of the long fight for shorter labor hours, without any reduction in wages, is an inspiring one.

Time was when the shorter work day was primarily the concern of labor alone. This is no longer so. Thinking men in our sadly growing nation and in all walks of life, see in it the corner-stone of any wise policy to stay the ravages of millions entrenched in involuntary idleness.

"Ever since 1926," the Executive Council states in its current annual report, page 130, "the American Federation of Labor has swung the entire force of its influence more resolutely behind a drive to shorten work hours in order to reduce unemployment. We struggled first for the five-day, forty-hour week, then for the thirty-hour week, and we have insisted that the work week be shortened without reducing the weekly income and living standard of American wage-earners. This great drive (the report continues), together with the help of Federal legislation, has resulted in outstanding achievement, equaled in no other country of the world."

The American Federation of Labor, in pressing its unrelenting fight for a shorter work day and a shorter work week, has rendered a notable public service. It has pointed the way that progress must take.

While it has not solved the problem of unemployment, it has softened its ravages beyond measure. The record on that score is plain. "Had it not been, however, for the drastic reduction in work hours, shortening the average work week in all industries from 50 hours in 1929, to 40 hours in 1937 (including part time work)," as the report of the Executive Council, page 131, said, "technological unemployment would certainly have afflicted several millions, and our total jobless army would have been very much larger than it is."

Mindful that each succeeding convention held during the six years since succeeding has, in stirring terms, renewed its advocacy of the five-day week and six-hour day, we shall now briefly reaffirm our declaration in support thereof and supplement the same with specific recommendations for continued progress in the light of conditions as they present themselves.

The past ten years, ranging from the 1929 all time high national income level of 81 billion dollars on down through the acute depression period and including 1937 (the year of revived prosperity) to the present time, presents a wealth of experience showing the operation of the shorter work week and its reaction on public and social welfare. This experience, with which we can now deal, more concrete in its terms, includes the relation of the shorter work week to the unemployment problem, to the wider diffusion of jobs, to the maintenance and advancement of wage rates, to the stimulation of national productivity and to other related factors of high importance in the maintenance of a healthy economic balance.

### Executive Council's Report on Shorter Work Week, Wages and Employment Commended

In the report of the Executive Council, pages 128 to 138 inclusive, a comprehensive survey of this entire subject is presented for the consideration of this convention. That portion of the Executive Council's report which includes an analysis of the several related factors having to do with the operation of the shorter work week, under the captions of "Wages and Hours," "The Shorter Work Week," "Employment Changes, 1929 to 1937," "Analysis of Figures," and "Summary" has been referred to your committee on the shorter work day for consideration and for the preparation of a report thereon. In response thereto, your committee submits the following:

After careful study and review of the progress made during the past difficult ten year period, and with due regard to the workers' employment and living standards, it is the judgment of your committee that the report

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# Six-Hour Day and Five-Day Work Week, Without Reduction In Wages, Demanded by the American Federation of Labor

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of the Executive Council presents a factual and thoughtful survey of this subject that is of the highest importance. Moreover this survey is reinforced by timely recommendations intended not only in behalf of the group but, hitherto won, but to steadily press forward along right lines in striving to soften the struggle for existence and provide job opportunities for the vast army of unemployed.

**Wage Reductions Prevented Despite the Depression**

The report of the Executive Council points out in discussing "Wages and Hours" that while a drastic reduction in hours was necessary during the past decade to prevent widespread unemployment, that this had to be achieved without any reduction in wages to prevent a defeat of its moving purpose through a reduction of living standards to a poverty level.

The sturm and unrelenting fight put up by the American Federation of Labor, in support of a shorter work week, on the one hand, and against any reduction in wage rates on the other, cannot be too highly commended. "The last two years of the decade gave a striking example of trade union success in maintaining wages," the Report of the Executive Council states. "We came through this recession with relatively few wage cuts, and these have in large part been restored."

During the past ten years, dating from the economic collapse of 1929, the total of unemployed workers has reached an average surpassing by far anything that had gone before. The depressing ramifications of this army of jobless, which according to the American Federation of Labor estimate, reached a high average of thirteen millions of unemployed in 1933, and a low of more than seven millions in 1937, runs through and colors every major item in this ten year survey.

**Higher Living Standards Visioned When Industry Expands**

Therefore, special attention is directed to the following illuminating summary on "Wages and Hours" in the Report of the Council covering the past decade as compared with the preceding ten year period.

"If now we compare progress in the decade just ending with progress in the ten previous years, 1919 to 1929, we find a strong contrast between the previous decade of expanding productive activity and the present ten years of industrial stagnation. From 1919 to 1929, the average per capita living standard in the United States increased 23 per cent and hours were reduced by 2 per week (from 51 in 1919 to 49 in 1929). From 1929 to 1937, the average per capita living standard declined 7.5 per cent and work hours were reduced by 10 per week.

"The only tangible gain to workers in the present decade has been an increase in leisure while adjustments in wage rates paved the way for higher living standards when industry expands. In the last decade the increase in leisure was very much smaller, but the 23 per cent rise in per capita 'real' income raised workers living standards to the highest level of any country in the world. This contrasts with a net loss in the present decade, due to industrial stagnation.

**Failure of Industry to Expand Has Imposed Starvation Incomes and Idleness on Millions**

Your committee in considering that portion of the Executive Council's report which shows the sharp decline in productive activity from the 1929 level in varying degree down to the current year of 1939, which according to the Executive Council's report is 23 per cent or 18 per cent or more below our 1929 production, desires to fully record its agreement with the statement that "the failure of industry to expand during the last decade has meant an immeasurable loss in national income."

We also realize how far reaching are the hard effects of this loss in national income to the workers in key industries as shown in that portion of the Executive Council's report, giving an analysis of the figures and also showing the employment loss in numbers of jobs.

To the one million, five hundred thousand who have lost their jobs an increase of four million, five hundred thousand in the working population has been added to the total of unemployed during the period of 10 to 11 years. Your Committee therefore directs its attention to the following quoted excerpt from the Executive Council's report, showing the tragic effect of this share of national idleness:

"Thus the failure of American industry to expand at pre-depression rates has meant starvation incomes for a large portion of our families and idleness for millions of our wage earners, with practically unused plant capacity above any other in the world, with industrial equipment and man power, capable of producing a level of living for the whole family, which has kept its industries running at part capacity, has ceased to expand industrially. This we consider the tragedy of the 1930s. To restore our industries to normal productivity and to put our unemployed, our idle men and women back to productive activity in our industries, is the first task before us, the first step in solving the unemployment problem."

**Fewer and Fewer Workers Required to Produce Same Output; Result, Millions of Jobless**

Unemployment still continues our most grievous problem. Industry and farm production in 1937, while running below the 1929 level, we find operating with one million less factory workers and one-half million fewer farm workers.

Thus the reduction in work hours, due to the progress of the shorter work week program during this period, did but little more than take up the unemployment slack, caused by technological advances and improved production methods.

In no year of the past ten has unemployment averaged less than eight million. Now with employment figures, according to September, 1939, trade union reports, showing a decided upward trend closely approaching the 1929 level, not only should any effort to spread jobs by means of new so-called emergency requirements be promptly challenged but the drive for a shorter work week should likewise go steadily on. Any other course would simply be violence to common sense in the face of the million idle men employed. Moreover, when workers are laid off in large numbers, because of a business recession, and unemployment increases, it becomes harder to put unemployment down to its previous level, because:

1. The working population is increasing steadily; about 45,000 young persons reach the working age each month. Today there are 1,000,000 more persons in our working population than there were two years ago (September, 1937), and we need 1,000,000 more jobs than we had then.

2. Productivity increases steadily, it takes fewer hours to produce the same amount. Production per man hour in American factories increased 5.9 per cent from September, 1936, to 1937, according to estimates made by the National Industrial Conference Board. Since there were 8,864,000 wage earners at work in our factories in September, 1937, it is safe to estimate that the same amount of work could be done today with 8,339,000 working the same hours; that is, with 525,000 fewer workers. Thus with one million more workers seeking work we can produce for September, 1937, product with 500,000 fewer workers than we employed two years ago. Therefore, we need jobs for one million, five hundred thousand (1,500,000) more in order to bring our unemployment to September, 1937, levels.

**Unemployment of Men and Machines for Ten Years Has Cost Two Hundred Billion Dollars**

On September 16, 1935, a wealth of facts and figures were submitted to President Roosevelt in a report by the National Resources Committee, entitled "The Structure of American Economy." This report contains a survey of the basic industries from 1919 to 1933, inclusive, with special reference to the problem of wide-spread unemployment. This report shows that unemployment of men and machines in this country since 1929, has cost the nation the staggering sum of more than two hundred billion dollars.

A table covering each succeeding year from 1919 to 1927 inclusive, and which is expressed in terms of 1929 average dollar values, according to the national income, totaling a combined total $67,600,000,000 in 1919, $81,200,000,000 in 1929, $40,000,000,000 in 1933, and $69,800,000,000 in 1937.

"When the national income is $40,000,000,000 instead of $80,000,000,000," this report states, "the worker suffers a lower income through unemployment or partial employment, or through wage rates lower than resources make possible; the farmer receives a lower income because of a reduced domestic market; the return on capital is reduced as a result of the partial use of equipment and the accumulation of idle capital. For each group this waste means a lower standard of living than would clearly be possible."

**Thirty-Hour Week Is Paramount Necessity to Restore Business Prosperity and Put Jobless Millions to Work**

In new addressing ourselves to that portion of the Executive Council's report where, under the caption, "Summary" a recapitulation of the major items of this subject with special reference to progress made and in prospect, your committee again reaffirms its support of the six-hour day as the basic purpose that prompted it. It deals with a question of such vital moment to all workers and indeed to all the people, that its importance can not be over-stated.

"Experience in the eight-year period from 1929 to 1937," the report states, "offers striking proof that shortening the work week effectively compensated for technological unemployment. Had hours remained the same, the 25 per cent increase in productivity per man-hour would have eliminated some 1,700,000 jobs, whereas, actually nearly 300,000 jobs were added."

"We re-emphasize (the report of the Executive Council declares) the need of continual shortening of work periods because of a reduction of industries, keeping in view our thirty-hour week." "While continuing to shorten hours (the report further states) we feel that the major national effort should be to lift industry out of its present stagnation and to set it on a path of expansion which will progressively raise living standards and put the unemployed to work, resulting in the goods and services we all need."

With these declarations, your committee is in hearty accord. To achieve and hold national prosperity, production and consumption should be maintained at a high level, which can be done only on a shorter work week basis.

This means, too, that the problem of unemployment should be of common concern to all citizens, as now are problems from the ravages of war, that this problem can be solved in an orderly manner would be an indictment on American common sense. Your committee has no illusions as to its complexity or the discouraging involvements that may attend its solution. We are heartened with the thought, however that we have traveled far toward a better understanding of this problem during the past ten years and that literally millions of our people are ready before it is too late, devoting as much serious thought to finding the right way to master the machine and make it serve the public welfare that nothing but good can come from it.

Your committee insists that the heart and center of this unprecedented economic problem, which actually is a problem of plenty, lies in the long continued expansion of productive efficiency creating social interdependence on the one hand and a problem of surplus and the distribution of that surplus on the other.

If we still reaped with a sickle, transported by ox cart, and performed other operations in a crude manner, obviously we now have all the goods before us. Through modern means and methods, volume production, standardized operations, and the elimination of superfluous wastes, we have more than solved the problem of production. The problem of markets that will provide an outlet for our national productive capacity so as to keep it in a profitable balance key, and our wealth increasingly commensurate that this convention strongly reaffirm its endorsement of the six-hour day, five-day work-week, without reduction in pay, and that the Executive Council be instructed to continue its efforts to forward the widest possible adoption of this shorter work-week program.

And we further recommend that the Executive Council be directed to initiate a campaign of education, of wide interest and appeal to bring home the importance of the shorter work-week from a standpoint of public welfare, through the efforts of affiliated international and national unions and through State and Local Central Bodies.

# Real Partnership Between Labor And Management Is Urged by Watt

**International Representative of American Federation of Labor Says Real Prosperity Must Be Based on Mutual Recognition of the Necessity of a Wage System Which Will Provide Workers With Purchasing Power Adequate to Keep Industry Operating.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The fundamental principles of a fair and real partnership between management representing those who own industry and labor representing those who do most of the useful work in industry were outlined recently by Robert J. Watt, International Labor Representative of the American Federation of Labor, in a recent address before the Rotary Club of Belleville, Illinois.

"The first objective of organized labor is the organization of those workers still outside our ranks," Mr. Watt said. "To meet the community problems we must recruit the millions of workers not now members of the labor movement. We must conduct an educational or missionary campaign to show all workers—whether wearing white collars or overalls—the necessity of their taking part in solving our economic problems.

**Unions Aim to Abolish Exploitation of Labor**

"In Great Britain and Sweden where I spent considerable time last year as a member of President Roosevelt's Commission many employers recognize that unions organization of workers is a tremendous force for business and governmental stability. If all workers were in effective, strong unions, the price-cutting and chiseling tactics of unrestrained competition could be eliminated without requiring the setting of standards by government.

"By eliminating the exploitation of workers, labor unions could make an enormous contribution to capital by strengthening and stabilizing price structures. Recent recessions have shown that strong unions could maintain wage values and prevent demoralization of property values, whereas lack of effective organization in textiles opened the door to wage and price slashes.

**Collective Bargaining Used to Maintain High Wages**

"More and more, unions which once thought themselves sufficiently strong to protect the rights of members have come to realize that they can maintain those rights only by maintaining wage standards in other industries high enough to provide purchasing power.

"Decent wage standards and purchasing power can best be maintained by the exercise of collective bargaining which labor won as a right in 1935. To be sure labor always regarded it as a right, but not until we secured specific legal sanctions could we be confident of the mere right of meeting the employer and presenting the petition of the workers.

"I dare say that this one law has averted more anarchy, amongst than any other legislation, and yet it merely promises the workers the right to engage in collective bargaining. It does not guarantee the right of free petition in a representative democracy, a right which was established in the Bill of Rights a century and a half ago.

**Fair Management-Labor Partnership Visioned**

"To us it is machinery by which we can reach another step in our necessary progress. Under present conditions it is essential that management and labor be on a status of a fair partnership. And I mean a partnership between management and labor, and not between capital and labor because that blissful ideal means little today.

"Capital today rests in the hands of so many, so many, in fact, that there is no real control or responsibility among the shareholders. The voice of capital today is the voice of management whether it be bankers, insurance company presidents or a mixture of all of them.

**Partnership Must Be Equal**

"When I say labor must have the status of a fair partnership, I don't mean that management will set the policies, establish the wage rates, hire and fire at will and keep the profits. Labor wants a partnership which is really equal, and share in that partnership by contributing services under conditions agreed to with the employer.

"Perhaps such an idea is surprising to you. Perhaps you will think I am just one more idle dreamer. I really am not. I am but one of thousands that a worker invests in the company for which he is employed something more vital and essential than dollars. He is investing, if all goes well, a lifetime and therefore he can't sell out and switch his investment elsewhere, under ordinary circumstances without suffering a heavy depreciation charge. Why shouldn't the worker have a right to insist that the management exercise real prudence in its handling of his investment?

**New England Mill Owners Injured Textile Industry**

"I know of many textile mills in my home State of Massachusetts where workers spent thirty or forty years under managements so stupid or shortsighted that they had to liquidate. Their sales program had been given over to a New York agent, their mills given to a son-in-law or cousin to operate when he wasn't in Palm Beach or Europe, their machinery had become obsolete, their buildings had grown old, but no money available for real capital. And shortsighted owners took out of the profits of the New England mills the capital for establishing new competitive machinery in the cheap labor sections of the South. After all this was the workers who paid the costs of management.

**Workers Must Have High Wages To Create Purchasing Power**

"But the basic objective of labor through a real partnership is the establishment of a system which will give to the workers the purchasing power needed to enable them to be customers of industry; customers who can and will buy enough to keep the mills and stores busy; customers who will sustain employment and create more and more jobs as decent wages and good customers who will enable both management and labor to enjoy the fruits of their partnership.

"Labor maintains that workers must have 'high wages' for a short work week in order to enable the business man to enjoy profits. High wages are necessary to maintain purchasing values. The chief characteristic of a depression is low wages—so low that prices of goods collapse, employment declines and a general state of business paralysis exists."

## Co-Op Oil Refinery Will Open In Kansas

Phillipsburg, Kansas (AFLWNS).—The first cooperative oil refinery in the United States, owned and controlled by 120,000 patron-members of cooperatives in ten midwestern States, is scheduled to begin operations in the near future, according to Howard A. Cowden, president of the Consumers Cooperative Association.

Built at a cost of $700,000 and covered by 120 acres, including tank line, the refinery will process 3,000 barrels of petroleum products a day.

## A. F. L. Seeks Removal of Floral Industry Workers From Agricultural Classification

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in accordance with the decision of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, is undertaking to have workers in floral industries removed from the classification of agricultural workers so that they may come under the provisions of the Social Security Act and the National Labor Relations Act.

The unjust classification of floral workers was brought to the attention of the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate Herman G. Bobstrom of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, which said:

"The work performed by these men is not (or should not) be classed as agricultural work because of the artificial condition under which it is performed, namely the light is admitted through glass which eliminates part of the sun's rays, thereby necessitating special care, as all plants require indirect sunlight. Likewise trenches or ports require water applied artificially and mechanical ventilation and, in fact, all operations contrary to natural environment."

"Because of the aforesaid conditions, floral workers are placed under the same act as the man working in factories."

In order to remedy this injustice the resolution directed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to request the proper Federal officials to have this classification changed accordingly.

In acting on the resolution the Committee on Legislation submitted the following report which the convention adopted:

"In line with the desire to extend the benefits of social security to all citizens of America, your committee recommends that the resolution be referred to the Executive Council with instructions to take such steps as are necessary to secure these benefits for floral workers."

## BATA SHOE CO. CHARGED WITH PAY ACT VIOLATION

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—The Wage-Hour Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor filed suit in the Federal District Court here charging the Bata Shoe Company, Inc., Belcamp, Md., with violating the Standards Act of 1939 in its Chicago plant.

The suit asked an injunction restraining the company from paying "upreads of 55" employees less than 30 cents an hour and from working more than 40 hours a week.

The suit charged that Wage-Hour Law violations dated back to October 24, 1938.

The company's answer asserted that the Bata Chicago plant was not engaged in interstate business because it is an office and warehouse.

## STRIKEBREAKING METHODS OF EMPLOYERS REVEALED

**Tear Gas Salesman Tells La Follette Committee of Scheme to Start Fight to Break Picket Line.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

San Francisco, Calif.—The La Follette Civil Liberties Committee which is investigating the Stockton Cannery strike of 1937, developed evidence to the effect that groups of the employers used tear gas and birdshot against the strikers which resulted in more than fifty persons being injured.

Ignatius McCarty, the agent who represented the Lake Erie Chemical Company, distributors of tear gas, at the time under investigation, explained practices of the employers who were affected by the strike.

According to the Associated Press, the committee investigators submitted as a prize bit of evidence a message filed up so as to start a battle between them and the wabbles," the message said. "To do this we must have permission from Wellman Peck (San Francisco wholesale house) to take a truck loaded with goods by one of our trucks instead of theirs. After it will only take one load to do the trick."

The term "wabbles" was not explained but observers suggested it was a variant of "wobblies," a slang nickname for I. W. W. members in Mr. Schmidt, now used loosely to designate any radicals.

**Sheriff Recruited Deputies**

Ex-Sheriff Harvey Odell of San Joaquin County admitted recruiting 1,200 farmer and businessmen deputies during the strike, issuing a proclamation that deputies could be shot-bound canneries and summoning the entire deputy force to assemble at the courthouse without guns but with pickhandles.

Odell said he took this action because non-striking cannery workers, including women, were eager to return to their jobs and fearful of violence. He asserted less than 10 per cent of the pickets were bona fide striking cannery workers.

## A.F.L. LAUNDRY WORKERS DEFEAT C. I. O. GROUP

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Hempstead, N. Y.—Officers and members of A. F. of L. International Union of Laundry Workers, Local 158, are elated over their defeat of the C. I. O. in an election conducted by the direction of the New York State Labor Relations Board by the employes of the Peerless Laundry, which voted overwhelmingly here to choose a collective bargaining agency.

The contest, which was between the A. F. of L. union and the C. I. O., was held Tuesday of last week, and in which polled 53 votes against 51 for the C. I. O. outfit.

Joseph P. Quinn, laundry organizer for Local 158, commenting on the election, stated: "We feel that the action of the majority of the Prompt employes in repudiating the C. I. O. will be the signal for other laundries on Long Island to likewise revolt against the tactics and labor practices of the C. I. O.

"In large part," Mr. Quinn added, "we owe our victory to the energetic and unfailing assistance at all times of Brother William C. De Koning, President of the Central Labor Body of Nassau and Suffolk, and the 35,000 members of his organization who have pledged their support."

Union headquarters for Local 158 is at 157 Greenwich Street, Hempstead.

## OLD-AGE PENSIONS PAID BY IRON WORKERS UNION

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLWNS).—The commendable features of the benefit policy operated by the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, A. F. of L. affiliate, are well illustrated in the report of the union listing the old-age and disability pensions paid during October, which total $8,350. Three hundred and 344 persons received $25 each during the month, total being $8,350.

In addition to the old age and disability pensions, the union paid out $2,200 in death benefits during the month, most of them amounting to $400 each.

# New Old-Age Insurance Law Includes Thousands of Workers Formerly Barred

**Benefits Are Based on Average Monthly Wages With Supplementary Benefits For Dependents; Monthly Pensions For Single Persons Range From $20.60 For An Average Wage of $50 Per Month to $56 For An Average Wage of $250 Per Month; Married Persons Will Get Monthly Pensions Ranging From $30.90 For Those Receiving An Average Monthly Wage of $50 to $84 For Those Receiving An Average Monthly Wage of $250.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

An extremely inclusive statement on the increased coverage and other advantages of the new old-age insurance provisions of the Social Security Act passed by Congress last summer was made by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Not only are thousands who were barred from the old social insurance law benefits made eligible for benefits in the amended act, but the date for the beginning of payment of pensions was advanced from January 1, 1942 to January 1, 1940. In addition, monthly retirement pensions are increased for the thousands who will be engaged in the fishing industry other than in connection with salmon or halibut fishing or in vessels of more than ten tons; employees of national banks and of Federal building and loan associations.

A broadening of the definition of agricultural labor, opposed by Labor, excludes from coverage some workers other than regular farm employees. Some other small groups have been excluded—employees of organizations exempt from the income tax if their wages do not exceed $45 a year or is performed by a student; student nurses and interns employed by a hospital or nurses training school; newsboys and minor delivery boys for shopping news services, and employes of some additional fraternal organizations and employes who receive benefits covered by retirement benefits.

**All Workers Should Be Included**

The difficulty of drawing a line between excluded and included employments and the obvious injustice of excluding workers once included and from whose wages payments have been deducted for old age insurance makes it even more necessary that we should extend the program to cover all workers as rapidly as possible, which should ultimately cover the self-employed in order that no equities in the system should be lost by a man's changing his type of work or starting in business for himself.

**Method of Calculating Benefits Explained**

The entire basis of computing the monthly benefit has been changed. Under the amended law the basic benefit is related to a man's average monthly wage instead of to his total wages earned in covered employment before his death or retirement as formerly. To the basic benefit is added an increment for each year he has been in covered employment. His "primary benefit" is the sum of these amounts. The method of calculating the "primary benefit" is as follows:

Forty per cent of the worker's average monthly wage to $50 a month, plus 15 per cent of the amount by which his average monthly wage exceeds $50, to a maximum of $250, plus 1 per cent of the previous sum multiplied by the number of years in which the worker received $200 or more in wages in covered employment.

The average monthly wage is calculated by dividing the total wages paid to the worker in covered employment prior to the quarter in which he became entitled to receive primary benefits or died, by three times the number of quarters elapsing after 1936 and before that quarter in which he became so entitled or died, excluding any quarter prior to the one in which he became 22 years of age during which he was paid less than $50 in wages, and excluding also any quarter after he became 65 years of age if it was after the year 1950.

If the wage as calculated is less than $10 the benefit payment shall be $10. The maximum benefit is not more than double the primary benefit, 80 per cent of average wages, or $85, whichever is smallest.

**Benefits Are Also Provided For Dependents**

The primary benefit is augmented by supplementary benefits for dependents, if a covered worker and his wife are both 65 or over she receives a benefit equal to one-half of his. In addition each unmarried dependent child under 18 years of age is entitled to a benefit of one-half the primary benefit.

In place of the lump sum of 3½ per cent of the total wages credited to an individual, which under the present act is paid to the estate of an insured person who dies before he is 65 years of age, survivers' benefits are substituted.

A widow receives, at the age of 65, three-fourths of her husband's primary benefit.

A widow under the age of 65 who has in her care one of the deceased's

(Continued on Page 3)

# A. F. L. Urges Ban on Federal Funds For Erection of Substandard Housing

**Application of Prevailing Wage Rate to Dwellings Carrying Mortgages Insured by Federal Housing Administration Is Also Demanded.**

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

A strong protest against using Federal funds to finance the construction of shoddy housing and the demand that the prevailing wage rate be extended to dwellings carrying mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration featured the action on Federal assistance to housing taken by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The question of shoddy housing financed by Federal funds was first brought to the attention of the convention by the A. F. of L. Executive Council, which described the so-called "Fort Wayne Plan" promoted by the Federal Housing Administration as a scheme under which "a municipal housing authority has built a number of identical houses according to standard construction and design, such houses having been manufactured, purchased and erected by W. P. A. relief labor for use of relief families exclusively."

**Scheme Encouraged Profiteering**

Pointing out that "this bizarre scheme of building movable houses involved a financing procedure making possible unbridled land speculation and unrestricted profiteering by private interests," the Executive Council said that inasmuch as the Federal Housing Administration law was designed to aid private enterprise and that the minimum standards must be of a moderate character of any public assistance, the American Federation of Labor recommended that in a short time create additional slum areas.

The Council also reported that they had secured an amendment to the Federal Housing Act in 1934 requiring "the payment of prevailing wages to all laborers and mechanics employed in the construction of buildings on which the mortgage is insured by the Federal Housing Administration," but that as finally enacted the amendment was restricted "to large scale or rental housing projects costing more than $16,000."

**Public Funds For Erection of "Shacks" Opposed**

In acting on this report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, the Committee on Building Trades submitted the following report on "Federal Housing Administration," which the convention adopted:

"Under this caption on Pages 121 and 122 of the report of the Executive Council is included two subjects, which are, a proposed amendment of the National Housing Act to prevent Federal mortgage insurance on substandard housing, and a proposed amendment which would require the payment of prevailing wages on all projects on which the mortgage is insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

"ONE: Your committee commends the Officers of the American Federation of Labor and the Building and Construction Trades Department upon their effort to secure legislation designed to prohibit use of Federal funds in the financing and erection of substandard homes. It is our opinion that the Federal Housing Administration was designed to encourage home building by private enterprise and through this channel to provide homes in keeping with American standards of safety, health and comfort, rather than to encourage the erection of shacks which will in a short time create additional slum areas.

**Prevailing Wage For Mortgage-Insured Homes Demanded**

"TWO: We also commend the Officers of the American Federation of Labor and the Building and Construction Trades Department for the effective effort made to secure the passage of the amendment which will in a short time create additional slum areas.

"We recommend that continued effort be made by these officers to secure further legislation covering these two important subjects."

# Federal Standards For Unemployment Compensation Are Urged by A. F. of L.

## State Compensation Laws, Often Enacted in Conformity With Employers' Demands, Tend to Nullify the Benefits Paid Jobless Workers by Reducing Compensation, Which Ranges From the Low Average Weekly Payment of $5.89 in Mississippi to the Average of Only $10.13 for All States.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

A strong indictment of existing State unemployment compensation laws for the low benefits paid to unemployed working men and women and for restrictions which to a large extent defeat the purpose of compensation for the jobless has convinced the American Federation of Labor that the unemployed compensation section of the Social Security Act should be amended to confer upon the Federal Government the power to fix unemployment compensation standards.

The Executive Council of the Federation reported to the 1939 convention of the Federation at Cincinnati, Ohio, that despite the contribution of $19,000,000 by the Federal Government during the last fiscal year for the administration of State unemployment compensation laws, the average weekly unemployment benefit in North Carolina was $5.88, in Mississippi $5.89, in Florida $6.17, and in South Carolina $6.20, while the average weekly benefit throughout the United States only $10.13.

Confronted with these facts, the convention made the following declaration regarding outstanding defects in the State unemployment compensation systems with special emphasis on the methods resorted to by many States to nullify to a large extent the benefits unemployed workers are supposed to receive from unemployment compensation laws, and outlined the necessary changes in State legislation in order to realize a greater degree of justice for the millions of unemployed workers, and strengthen the paramount necessity for the substitution of Federal unemployment compensation standards for State standards:

### Federal Control Over State Systems Summarized

"Unemployment compensation under the Social Security Act is a Federal-State system. The law of each State must meet certain administrative standards for approval of the Social Security Board. No States whose laws are approved; the Federal Government appropriates all the funds necessary for administration of the act. The unemployment compensation funds are collected by the States and turned over to the United States Treasury which maintains, for each State, a separate book account and holds all moneys in a single fund—the Unemployment Trust Fund.

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portions of this fund as are not required to meet current withdrawals. Such investments may be made in interest bearing obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the United States as to principal and interest. When drawn must be used solely for payment of unemployment compensation exclusive of expenses of administration.

### Some States Provide Small Security For Jobless

"While the laws of the various States are similar in general outline there is considerable difference in the amounts paid out, in provisions for figuring benefits and in the disqualifications imposed. Many of the laws are complex, expensive to administer, and result in so little security for the unemployed that they cost hardly justify their costs.

"On the basis of the experience to date the American Federation of Labor is even more firmly convinced of the need for Federal standards for benefit payments administered, as the law was intended, for the benefit of the workers.

### Changes in State Laws During 1939

"Forty-six States, including Alaska and Hawaii, had legislative sessions this year. Most of them considered extensive revisions of their unemployment compensation laws. Changes were effected to bring the State laws into harmony with the Federal Railroad Unemployment Compensation Act adopted at the last session of Congress.

"In response to a persistent agitation for more prompt payment of benefits a number of States reduced their waiting periods. None went below a two-week period, however. Labor believes one week ample time for the administrative operations necessary and will continue to urge a reduction to that period.

"Many of the States simplified their benefit structures by reducing the base period to four instead of eight quarters, and establishing classes of benefit rates in even amounts rather than paying the exact numerical amount of the benefit. The classes adopted are in 50-cent intervals in many cases. They should rearrange the be much larger intervals to get the greatest simplification and still keep a variation of benefits somewhat related to wage differentials.

### Employers' Scheme to Reduce Weekly Benefits Defeated

"One form of so-called 'simplification' which was opposed to the workers' interests was actively urged in a great many States by an organization of employers well-financed for that purpose. The plan was to abandon the method of determining the benefit rate in relation to the previous weekly wages and to set up benefit classes related to annual wages. The result would be to average up payless weeks of unemployment with the wages received while the worker was employed, making the benefit amount less than half the normal weekly wages if the worker had been regularly employed in his base period.

"This unfair proposal was defeated in most of the States in which it was made. A few accepted it and labor will have to fight to eliminate it later and to prevent its spread to other States.

"In a number of States a compromise was made by scaling the benefit rate to the earnings in the highest quarter of the year. While this is less serious, because a man can more readily have regular work throughout one quarter than throughout the year, it still has the disadvantage of diverting unemployment benefit from that which it is intended to compensate—the loss of regular wages on a weekly basis.

### Jobless Victimized by Merit Rating Laws

"A serious threat to workers' interests at present is the fact that many State laws toward increasing the severity of the penalties for voluntary quits, discharge for misconduct, and failure to accept an offered job. Under these laws the worker is barred at least benefits entirely under these circumstances and his wage credits are canceled so that even after he has worked at another job and has been laid off through no fault of his own, he is not able to receive benefits on the basis of those wage credits.

"There is no justice in these extreme disqualifications. They are evidence of the defect Labor has consistently pointed out in the 'merit' or 'experience' rating laws. In their efforts to get favorable rates employers wish benefit payments to be as small as possible and are therefore devising schemes to bar workers from benefits. The purpose of the unemployment compensation laws is thus defeated. Labor will continue to oppose all forms of merit rating and to work for a true sharing of risks in the straight pooled fund with equal tax rates on all employers.

"In a few States the obnoxious complexity and cost of the merit rating provisions persuaded the legislatures to repeal these provisions and substitute instead a plan for study. Others have set up a system of three tax rates and undesirable tax differential when they try to put it into operation. It has no place in an unemployment compensation system.

### Low Tax Rate Turns Security Into Mockery

"Under the Federal-State system a Federal tax of 3 per cent of payrolls will not encourage more than the first $3000 of wages for any person in one year is collected from employers of 8 or more persons for 20 weeks in the year. Against this tax the employer may credit whatever he paid in taxes under a State unemployment compensation law up to 90 per cent of the Federal tax.

"As a result of this provision nearly every State fixed its own tax rate at 2.7 per cent of the payroll. As the tax rate was determined not as an ideal figure which would provide adequate benefits but as one which would permit some security without undue hardship to employers.

"Because the field was new and accurate estimates of the cost of meeting certain benefit standards were not available, benefit standards were set so low figures in order not to bankrupt the funds. The cost estimates proved to be too large. The reserves piled up rapidly, in the face of an unexpectedly rapid rate.

"In spite of the fact that benefits are admitted by every student of unemployment compensation to be too low in every State and so far below reasonable standards in some States as to make a mockery of the promise of security, the increase in reserves has served as the basis for a drive for lower tax rates."

### Labor Opposes Tax Reductions That Deprive Jobless of Reasonable Benefits

Using statistics which show "that except for California and Minnesota and two States, New York and Texas, which made no report, the rates of benefit checks in the second quarter of the year, every State which had increased its tax rate, or all but 15 per cent over the amount at which it stood when benefits were first payable, was paying benefit checks smaller than the national average," the convention declared that "reserves would be no problem if benefits were liberalized," adding:

"An attempt to amend the Social Security Act to permit employers additional credit against the Federal tax to allow for reductions in the State tax rate after the State had met specified standards of benefit standards, failed to pass this session of Congress.

"Labor is determined that the purpose of unemployment compensation—the payment of wage benefits for long enough periods to cover the usual periods of unemployment in a year—shall not be defeated by tax reductions which will keep the funds so low as to permit increases in benefits our system needs."

# FIRM ORDERED TO REHIRE 18 A. F. OF L. TEAMSTERS

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Philadelphia, Pa.—The National Labor Relations Board has ordered Protective Motor Service Company here to rehire eighteen of its employees discharged in March, 1938, in 1935 allegedly for union activities, and pay them back wages estimated at $35,000.

The finding, on appeal from which either side can exit a hearing, established the complaint that the eighteen men were discharged for joining Local 470 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor.

The order directed the company to cease discriminatory tactics against union members.

# 20,000 Complaints of Wage-Law Violation Filed In Nine Months

## Over Ten Thousand Employers Involved in Attempts to Nullify Statutory Mandate Fixing Maximum Hours and Minimum Wages For Millions of Workers.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Definite evidence of the determination of subversive employers to continue impairing long-hours and low-wages on their employes despite the positive mandate of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was cited by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, in a declaration on the enforcement of the Act.

### F. L. Unions Mobilized to Aid Enforcement

"When the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect on October 24, 1938," the convention declared, "President Green called on the officers of the American Federation of Labor unions and especially on central labor unions and State federations of labor, emphasizing that the higher responsibility for the enforcement of the law rests upon organized labor. He urged all unions to create wage and hour committees which would carry on educational and informational work among union members and among the unorganized wage earners.

"The attention of all unions was also called to the vital need to maintain accurate daily and weekly available records showing wage standards attained by union agreements and the number of workers employed by them.

"The importance of active participation on the part of union membership in the enforcement of the law was enhanced by the fact that the enforcement section of the Wage and Hour Division, known as the 'Cooperation and Inspection Section,' had been very much understaffed from the outset.

### Thousands of Complaints Received

"During the first nine months of the operation of the Act, the Wage and Hour Division received some 20,000 complaints of violations, some 16,800 of which were determined to be valid. Of these 16,800 valid complaints involving 10,000 establishments, nearly 75 per cent were complaints against employers in manufacturing industries.

"For all industries, approximately 70 per cent of all valid complaints involved violations of the minimum wage provisions of the Act either alone or together with violations of the overtime requirements. Most of the complaints received from workers in industries other than manufacturing were those filed against establishments in wholesale and retail trade. About 51 per cent of complaints in this group involved violations of the overtime pay provisions of the law.

### Enforcement Handicapped by Small Force of Inspectors

"During the first nine months of its operation, the Wage and Hour Division had only 100 inspectors in the field to handle complaints. Over this period, 7,500 complaints were investigated, involving 5,650 establishments. Of the complaints covered by 3,954 reports, 162 cases were closed mainly by restriction of back wages by the employer; 209 were dropped—151 because no violation was found, and 58 because the firms were not covered by the Act; 106 cases were referred for possible prosecution and the remaining 767 cases were still pending final disposition.

### Violators Convicted

"Of 61 prosecutions instituted in the courts by the Federal Government between the end of January and August, 46 preliminary or final decrees have been issued and the Division's preliminary petition for enforcement was denied only once. Of these cases, 29 were criminal suits brought in the various courts by the Department of Justice. In 18 cases, the Government either obtained convictions or the defendants entered pleas of guilty, and the remaining 11 cases suits were still pending. The legal branch of the Wage and Hour Division has filed 34 injunction proceedings seeking to restrain defendants from violating provisions of the Act. In 28 of those cases the injunctions sought were issued."

# New Old-Age Insurance Law Includes Thousands of Workers Formerly Barred

(Continued from Page 2)

dependent minor children is entitled to a benefit three-fourths that of her deceased husband.

A surviving dependent minor child's benefit is equal to that to which he would be entitled if his parent were receiving a primary insurance benefit.

If neither widow nor children survive an insured person, his dependent parent or parents are entitled to an amount equal to one-half his primary benefit.

If no eligible survivors are entitled to monthly benefits, a lump sum equal to six times the primary insurance benefit is payable to specified close relatives or, failing such relatives, to the person or persons who paid the burial expenses to the extent and in proportion as they bore the expense.

**Illustrative Monthly Old Age Insurance Benefits under Old Plan and under Revised Plan**

| Years of Coverage | Old Plan | Revised Plan | | Old Plan | Revised Plan | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Single | Married[2] | | Single | Married[2] |
| | Average monthly wage of $50 | | | Average monthly wage of $100 | | |
| 2 | (1) | $20.50 | $30.90 | (1) | $25.75 | $38.63 |
| 5 | $15.00 | 21.00 | 31.50 | $17.50 | 26.25 | 39.38 |
| 10 | 17.50 | 22.00 | 33.00 | 22.50 | 27.56 | 41.34 |
| 20 | 22.50 | 24.00 | 36.00 | 32.50 | 30.00 | 45.00 |
| 30 | 27.50 | 26.00 | 39.00 | 42.50 | 32.50 | 48.75 |
| 40 | 32.50 | 28.00 | 40.00 | 51.25 | 35.00 | 52.50 |
| | Average monthly wage of $150 | | | Average monthly wage of $250 | | |
| 2 | (1) | $30.90 | $46.35 | (1) | $41.20 | $61.80 |
| 5 | $20.00 | 31.50 | 47.25 | $25.00 | 42.00 | 63.00 |
| 10 | 27.50 | 33.00 | 49.50 | 37.50 | 44.00 | 66.00 |
| 20 | 42.50 | 36.00 | 54.00 | 56.25 | 48.00 | 72.00 |
| 30 | 53.75 | 39.00 | 58.50 | 68.75 | 52.00 | 78.00 |
| 40 | 61.25 | 42.00 | 63.00 | 81.25 | 56.00 | 84.00 |

[1] It is assumed, with respect to the revised plan, that an individual earns at least $200 in each year of coverage in order to be eligible to receive the 1-per cent increment. If this were the case, the benefit would be somewhat higher.

[2] Benefits for a married couple without children where wife is eligible for a supplement.

[3] Benefits are not payable until age 65.

**Monthly Payments Increased During Earlier Years of System**

The net effect of these changes is to increase the size of the monthly payment materially for both single and married workers who retire in the next few years, to increase the benefits payable to all married workers, and in later years to decrease the benefits to a single worker. The amount payable in a lump sum on the estate of the deceased under the original law is largely eliminated, only a small burial expense being paid if the insured worker leaves no dependent survivors of the classes named.

**Illustrative Monthly Survivor Benefits**

| Years of Coverage | One child or parent 65 or over | Widow 65 or over | Widow and one child | One child or parent 65 or over | Widow 65 or over | Widow and one child |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Average monthly wage of deceased, $50 | | | Average monthly wage of deceased, $100 | | |
| 2 | $10.20 | $15.45 | $23.75 | $12.88 | $19.31 | $32.19 |
| 5 | 10.50 | 15.75 | 26.25 | 13.13 | 19.69 | 32.81 |
| 10 | 11.00 | 16.50 | 27.50 | 13.75 | 20.63 | 34.38 |
| 20 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 30.00 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 37.50 |
| 30 | 13.00 | 19.50 | 32.50 | 16.25 | 24.38 | 40.63 |
| 40 | 14.00 | 21.00 | 35.00 | 17.50 | 26.25 | 43.75 |
| | Average monthly wage of deceased, $150 | | | Average monthly wage of deceased, $250 | | |
| 2 | $15.45 | $23.18 | $38.63 | $20.60 | $30.90 | $51.50 |
| 5 | 15.75 | 23.63 | 39.38 | 21.00 | 31.50 | 52.50 |
| 10 | 16.50 | 24.75 | 41.25 | 22.00 | 33.00 | 55.00 |
| 20 | 18.00 | 27.00 | 45.00 | 24.00 | 36.00 | 60.00 |
| 30 | 19.50 | 29.25 | 48.75 | 26.00 | 39.00 | 65.00 |
| 40 | 21.00 | 31.50 | 52.50 | 28.00 | 42.00 | 70.00 |

[1] It is assumed that an individual earns at least $200 in each year of coverage. If this were not the case, the benefit would be somewhat lower.

The number of persons who will be able to qualify for benefits is enormously increased by a provision that wages earned by a person 65 years of age or older during 1939 and, henceforth, will be subject to the tax and counted toward the total wages on the basis of which benefits are paid.

Thus, if a worker has put in casual employment four quarters in which he earned $50 each, he is assumed to have earned at least $200 in each year of coverage in order to be eligible to receive the 1-per cent increment. If this were the case, the benefit would be somewhat higher.

[2] Benefits for a married couple without children where wife is eligible for a supplement.

[3] Benefits are not payable until age 65.

To qualify an individual must have been employed in covered employment for at least one quarter of coverage in order to be eligible for benefits. He must have received wages of $50 or more in each of at least one-twelfth of the quarters in the period between January 1, 1937, and the quarter in which he becomes 65, or dies if earlier, and in each quarter after the quarter in which he becomes 65 and before the quarter in which he dies. He must have received wages of $50 or more in each of at least one-twelfth of the quarters in the period between January 1, 1937, and the quarter in which he dies, if he dies before age 65. Finally, he must have received wages of $50 or more in each of at least one-twelfth of the quarters in the period between January 1, 1937, and the quarter in which he died, if he died before age 65, and in each quarter after the quarter in which he died and before the quarter in which he died, if he died before age 65.

# FISH IMPORTS TARIFF STUDIED BY A. F. OF L.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The advisability of legislation levying a tariff on foreign fish to protect workers in the American fish industry is being studied by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in accordance with instructions of the 1939 convention of the Federation at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The question of a wage-protecting tariff on foreign fish was presented to the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate Walter W. Cenerazzo of the Central Labor Union and Gloucester, Massachusetts, which said:

"Many thousands of employes in the fishing industry have been deprived of employment due to the reciprocal trade pact signed by the Department of State.

"Certain foreign governmental agencies have refused and said high subsidies to American fishery concerns to operate plants in foreign countries.

"Many thousands of these employes have been members of the American Federation of Labor during the past several years.

"Therefore, these members of organized labor can obtain in through the intercession of the American Federation of Labor the passage of legislation by the Congress of the United States Senate and Congress.

To remedy this situation, the resolution recommended "that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor use its influence to secure the imposition of a customs tax, which tax or impost will be sufficient will equalize the difference in wages paid at home and those paid to communities of our American workers employed in the Fishery Industry."

The report of the convention thru Committee on Legislation submitted the following report, which the convention adopted:

"The objective of this Resolution No. 100 is to protect the workers in the fishing industry in America, particularly in New England. It provides for the imposition of a duty on imported fish products equal to the difference between the wage scale in foreign fishing industries and the wage scale in the American fishing industry.

"However, the wages are not the only item entering into the difference between the fish imported into America and the cost of foreign production, and for that reason that this convention has already adopted a resolution providing for a customs duty equal to the difference between the cost of imports and the cost of American production, your committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the Executive Council to be considered in connection with Resolution No. 72, already adopted."

# QUOTA SUGAR IMPORTS STUDIED BY A. F. OF L.

## Influence of Refined Sugar From Other Countries on Employment of Workers of American Workers Will Be Explored.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will study the effect of imports of refined sugar on the wages and employment of workers in the United States.

This question was turned over to the Council by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The matter was brought to the attention of the convention by Delegates Joseph P. Ryan, John R. Owens and Fred J. Umbach of the International Longshoremen's Association in a resolution which said:

"The refining of raw cane sugar in Continental U. S. gives employment to thousands of workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"The jobs and payrolls of the sugar refinery workers have increased since 1935 by the flood of refined sugar which has been imported into this country from Cuba, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and other tropical islands.

"A further loss in jobs and payrolls will occur after 1940 unless these workers receive adequate protection in the Sugar Act to be written that year.

In an effort to mitigate this evil, the resolution proposed that the American Federation of Labor go on record as recommending that an adequate protection (through tariff, quotas or otherwise) be provided for the sugar refinery workers in any sugar legislation which may be developed by Congress in 1940, and under no circumstances should there be any increase in the quota importation of refined sugar made in the Sugar Act extended for one year.

In addition, the resolution said "that the American Federation of Labor actively oppose any proposed legislation for these workers."

The report of the Resolutions Committee, which the convention adopted, recommended "approval of the purpose of the Resolution and would refer it to the Executive Council for study and action."

# R. F. C. AIDS FINANCE OF LOW-COST DWELLINGS

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Washington, D. C.—Administrator Jesse Jones of the Federal Loan Agency announced that the R. F. C. Mortgage Company would purchase up to $25000 loans made to finance the construction of new homes.

R. F. C. officials declared that by this offer they expected to loosen additional funds for new home building. Banks and finance companies, able under this arrangement to pass the mortgages on to the R. F. C. now will be in a better position to pump new credit into that industry, they said.

The R. F. C. purchase offer applies to 20-year mortgages for dwellings costing $25000 or less. They will buy these from banks and finance companies, discounting the note half of 1 per cent. The banks, in turn, will service the mortgages and retain a service fee of 1 per cent—one-half of which will be paid by the mortgagor. This transaction the bank would profit by one-half of 1 per cent.

The offer, officials explained, applies only to new construction after January 1, 1940, and does not include modernization or improvement loans.

# A. F. of L. Fights Dismissal of Teachers For Membership In Teachers Federation

## Executive Council Supports Movement to Secure Reinstatement of Teachers Discharged by Jacksonville School Board and Montana University Authorities.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Strong condemnation of the policy adopted by certain school authorities in dismissing school teachers because of their membership in locals of the American Federation of Teachers, A. F. of L. affiliate, was expressed by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

This attempted destruction of democracy and the right of teachers to organize in the unions to protect their interests was brought to the attention of the convention by the Committee on Education in a report which specifically mentioned the School Board of Jacksonville, Florida, and the authorities of the University of Montana as instances of undemocratic dismissal of teachers for their union affiliation.

In discussing "Violations of Teachers' Tenure," the committee said:

"The committee desires to call special attention to a serious problem presented by Delegate R. C. Valentine of the Jacksonville, Florida, Central Labor Council. Brother Valentine informs us that forty public school teachers of Duval County, including all the officers of the local Teachers' Union, have been removed from their positions, without presentation of any charges whatever.

"It is reported that some of these teachers have served as long as thirty years in the public school system of Duval County and that the average length of service is ten years.

"It is also reported that the only reasons expressed unofficially for the mass dismissal of teachers are (1) that the teachers had been active in the work of the Teachers' Union, with a membership of more than 500, and (2) that this group had been active in attempting to establish a teachers' tenure law for Duval County.

"The administration, however, desires to make it clear that individual teachers, in the exercise of activities in any organization, must necessarily assume responsibility for the acts and policies of the organization to which they lend such support." * * *

"Therefore, it becomes necessary that individuals must recognize the fact that the responsibility is placed upon them, by their approval or acquiescence create policies, and not upon those who actually carry out the policies which may be recommended or established.

"Individual teachers can ill afford the opportunity for themselves to do acts which may be carried on by those outside of the system, but which may be nevertheless, approved and endorsed by those within the system, and by organizations which may be reasonably construed to be in violation of the terms of the teachers' contracts.'

### Sound Tenure Laws For Teachers Needed to Safeguard Right Must Be Preserved

Since the regimentation of the labor movement and control of the public school system are two of the first steps in the destruction of democratic governments, and since mass dismissal of public school teachers, regardless of their fitness, is an undemocratic procedure and not in the public interest, we recommend to the convention emphatic condemnation of such action and urge all labor bodies of Florida to rally to the support of these teachers who have been unfairly treated.

"The American Federation of Labor has repeatedly declared its position in favor of sound tenure laws for teachers and freedom for teachers to affiliate with organized labor. The convention at Denver in 1937 declared:

"'The American Federation of Labor was one of the pioneer agencies in this country in the establishment of free public instruction. It has ever zealously guarded the fundamental democratic development of our public school system since its inception. It must continue to do so, for it is not only true to say that the labor movement can progressively continue only under democratic institutions, but the democratic institutions can continue in progress in safety only so long as there is a labor movement.

"'Your committee recommends that President Green and the Executive Council give all possible support to the American Federation of Teachers and to the other labor bodies whose reinstatement of teachers in such cases as are exemplified by these mass dismissals.'

The recommendation of the Committee on Education was unanimously adopted by the convention.

# JUDGE ORDERS 3 FIRMS TO PAY FOR OVERTIME

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The Wage-Hour Administrator of the U. S. Department of Labor announced that an order had been issued by Federal Judge Wayne G. Borah in New Orleans requiring three corporations in Louisiana to pay their employes $7,000 for overtime pay worked since October 24, 1938, when the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect.

The order involved the Douglas Public Service Corporation, Inc., and two affiliates, the New Orleans Storage and Forwarding Co., Inc., and the Douglas Shipside Storage Corporation, all of New Orleans.

When the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect the maximum hours were fixed at 44 per week, with a provision allowing overtime in certain circumstances provided the workers were paid more than the statutory rate of 25 cents an hour for the excess hours worked.

# Home Rule In Public School System Urged by American Federation of Labor

## Trade Union Representation on Local School Boards and Public Libraries Held Essential to Protect Labor's Rights in the Education of Children.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

A firm declaration that organized labor should have adequate representation on all local school boards and public libraries was adopted by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The importance of such representation was tersely expressed in the report of the A. F. of L. Committee on Education on "Local Educational Responsibility." The committee said:

"The effectiveness of any program that the American Federation of Labor may formulate depends upon State federations of labor, central labor unions and local unions for its effectiveness, for education programs are determined locally. Labor has the biggest stake in the public school system, for it is primarily upon labor that the burden of taxation for public education must fall. Labor should be proportionately represented on local boards of education and among the directors of the public libraries. Every central labor body should have an active committee on education and representation on local boards of education and on the boards of public libraries.

"Your committee would therefore recommend to this convention that it has practically succeeded to other conventions; namely, that labor should seek actively to secure representation on local boards of education and on the boards of public libraries.

"Your committee would further recommend that central bodies set up an active committee on education, where they do not now exist, to collaborate in evolving sound educational policies and to cooperate with various committees on vocational education."

Years ago labor was recognized the great importance of local initiative and control of education and the value of labor participation in the public school system.

It is in the local community that labor must make itself felt in matters of school policy and administration. If it is to do that, labor must come into close contact with the local school authorities. For labor cannot, like other groups in the community to represent its interests; it should not surrender to others the educational experiences of such representation and collaboration.

"From the local union through the central bodies to the State federations, labor can evolve a sound educational policy; it is through these units that the Federation policy in education can be given effect. But on the other hand labor's educational policy must be applied to specific situations. It can be best applied if labor is adequately represented in educational bodies.

"Your committee would therefore recommend that central bodies set up an active committee on education, where they do not now exist, to collaborate in evolving sound educational policies and to cooperate with various committees on vocational education."

# Unemployment Compensation Statutes Must Be Amended To Protect Jobless

## American Federation of Labor Includes Shorter Waiting Period and Longer Period of Payments in Eight-Point State Legislative Program; Advisory Council to Study and Suggest Changes in Federal Social Security Act Recommended.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Firmly convinced that there should be uniform provisions governing compensation for unemployment in accordance with the principle that now covers Federal legislation for those disabled for work by old age, the American Federation of Labor Committee on Social Security was instructed by the 1939 convention of the Federation to explore the possibility of a Federal unemployment compensation law. In addition, the convention recommended the establishment by Congress of an Advisory Council to study unemployment compensation and to recommend desirable changes in the Social Security Act.

Pending amendment of the Federal Act, the convention recommended eight specific changes in State unemployment compensation laws to more definitely protect the rights of jobless workers. One of the proposed amendments calls for a shorter waiting period, while another demands an increase in the period during which benefits are paid.

**Jobless Workers Paid $625,068,000**

Following is the text of the convention statement with regard to desirable changes in both the Federal and State unemployment compensation laws:

"Through June 30, 1939, the total benefits paid out since the unemployment compensation laws went into effect was $625,068,000. In the last fiscal year 2,725,000 individual beneficiaries, 2,258,176 in private industry and 466,877 in public employment of which about 50,000 were on relief projects. These are valuable services to the economic life of our nation.

"The important steps ahead are those connected with improving the efficiency of both services, increasing the amount and duration of benefit payments while reducing the complexity and cost of administration, and extending the system to the thousands of workers not now included, particularly seamen, agricultural and domestic workers, the employes of charitable and other non-profit organizations.

**Efficient Operation Is Difficult Under State Systems**

"The difficulties of operation under so many separate systems have already become evident, particularly in applying the regulations equitably to workers who travel regularly from State to State in the course of their employment. Only a Federal law can cover such workers satisfactorily. The pressure in many States to keep benefit payments small and to reduce tax rates indicates plainly the need for Federal standards to prevent interstate competition from cutting benefits to low levels.

"Labor believes that proper amendment of the Social Security Act relating to unemployment compensation can be made only on the basis of a thorough study of our present Federal-State system and the need for more adequate standards.

"We need to develop our concept of the part unemployment compensation is to serve in meeting the problem of unemployment.

**More Adequate Unemployment Compensation Urged**

"It is clear that if unemployment compensation is to justify itself as a system distinct from relief it must pay adequate benefits promptly and for a long enough time to cover an appreciable amount of the unemployment normally expected in a year.

"It is equally clear that an unemployment compensation system based on payroll taxes cannot finance indefinitely prolonged periods of unemployment or cure of the unemployable.

"The relation between unemployment compensation and relief and provision for persons temporarily and permanently disabled needs to be defined more clearly and the proper field for each delimited.

**Establishment of Social Security Advisory Council Recommended**

"The American Federation of Labor supported an amendment to the Social Security Act providing for the appointment of an Advisory Council to study unemployment compensation and to recommend changes in the Social Security Act on basis of its studies. Such a council should be composed of representatives of labor, business and the public. This amendment failed to pass. We shall continue to urge the appointment of such a council to assist in this necessary study. We recommend particularly that such a study include careful consideration of the difficulties of harmonizing the many State systems now operating and the desirability of substituting a Federal grant-in-aid system with appropriate Federal standards of benefits for the present credit-against-Federal-tax system for unemployment compensation.

**Compensation For Permanently Disabled Workers Demanded**

"Compensation for the man who is normally employed and is only temporarily out of work needs to be supplemented by a program for the worker temporarily or permanently disabled if we are to achieve a full measure of security. The man who is unemployed because he is ill needs as much or more compensation as the healthy unemployed man.

"Failure to provide a disability program is likely to lead to increasing use in administering unemployment compensation laws as some agencies have found to be the only readily available payroll in order to keep them from seeking relief funds. The Advisory Council on Social Security found benefits for persons totally and permanently disabled to be socially unsound.

"The American Federation of Labor believes that immediate steps should be taken to provide for these benefits either through an extension of the present old age benefits or in some other way.

"It believes that immediate attention should also be given to providing benefits for persons temporarily disabled, either through an extension of workmen's compensation laws, or as a supplement to unemployment compensation laws.

"It is important that we recognize disability compensation as a natural and logical complement to our unemployment compensation and old age programs.

**Changes in State Unemployment Compensation Laws Urged**

"The unemployment compensation laws relating to benefits are made by the States at present, the Federation of Labor feels that it believes the important next steps in State legislation must be:

"1. To reduce the waiting period to one week.

"2. To increase the duration of benefits by establishing a flat period within which benefits would be paid. This should be no less than 16 weeks in any State, 26 weeks is preferable.

"3. To simplify the benefit structure by paying benefits in round amounts, with not more than five classes of benefit amounts.

"4. To raise benefit amounts to the class in which the worker's full-time weekly wage normally falls, rather than the actual quarterly earnings which cheat the worker of benefits he should receive.

"5. To establish an adequate minimum payment, no lower than $5.00 in any State, in order that benefit checks may be for significant amounts.

"6. To eliminate all forms of merit and experience rating from the laws in order that the administration may be kept simple and as inexpensive as possible and in order that there may be no incentive to the employer to block the payment of benefits which fairly should be paid.

"7. To secure payment of partial benefits at least equal to the differentials between full weekly wage rates and the worker's benefit rate for full-time employment.

"8. To prevent the introduction of excessive provisions for disqualification of workers from receiving benefits for reasons not valid otherwise be entitled. No disqualification should include the form of penalty now by the credits or charging of benefits as if they had been paid when they were withheld. Its provisions relating to voluntary quit, discharge for misconduct, refusal to take job, or any other cause should be more severe than an increase in the waiting period, not to exceed four additional weeks, and a pressure to keep benefit payments low for merit-rating purposes makes a qualifying measure. Labor is a pressure to keep benefit payments low for merit-rating purposes makes a qualifying measure. Labor is against increases in the grounds for or severity of disqualification provisions."

## TRUCKER WORK HOURS BOOSTED FOR HOLIDAYS

### Limit in Illinois Increased to 18 Daily.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Chicago, Ill.—Director of public works, Lt. Lyndon Smith, who is also administrator of the truck regulatory law enacted by the 1939 session by the Illinois legislature, issued an order under which Illinois truck drivers were permitted to put in a maximum of sixteen consecutive hours at the wheel and a maximum of eighteen hours on duty during the during the Christmas holiday period.

The law, as a safety measure, limits drivers to 10 hours' service at the wheel and to 15 hours of work in one day. However, the new statute also permits the administrator to alter the limits in periods of emergency or unusual demand. The order for the holidays order was issued because of the heavy holiday business.

The statute regulates all intrastate trucking. For-hire carriers under the Interstate Commerce Commission are limited to 10 hours of continuous driving and are permitted no more than nine hours additional on duty delayed by unforeseen weather, traffic or road conditions. They are permitted to work 15 hours in one day only when providing relief in disasters.

## Racine Cooperative Boasts 1300 Members

Racine, Wis. (AFLWNS).—The fifth annual meeting of the Racine Consumers Cooperative Association, a unit in which trade union men in Racine realized that price increases could be met only by the formation of a cooperative, has recently announced a steady gain in membership, an increase in business and a strong financial position that even fixed charges during the depression.

During the past 12 months sales increased 20 per cent over high of $235,000 or about 10 per cent over 1937 sales. Membership has also far exceeded the quarter-million mark but for a serious gas price war during which 1,000 persons left the group as members in the co-op increased to more than 1,300 and $3,347 in paid-up capital was received. Fixed assets now total $43,000. Although operating margins have been expanded slower and the board of directors has recommended patronage dividends of 2 per cent on sales, 4 per cent on services, 5 per cent on clothing and cleaning, 7 per cent on wood and 8 per cent on groceries and meats.

# Activities of Union Label Trades Department Commended by A. F. L.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The activities of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in promoting the sale of union label goods and services received the commendation of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

A report of the Union Label Trades Department was presented to the convention in the report of the Committee on Union Labels, which was read by Delegate Chauncey Weaver of the American Federation of Musicians, secretary of the Committee.

On behalf of the Union Labels Committee," Mr. Weaver said, "I have the honor to present a report on this subject, a matter of which we hope will appeal to your sensibilities as a method of conserving American and revangel of peace. There is not one explosive element in it, although I had considerable to do with its preparation. In fact, you might as well expect to take a torpedo out of the unfolding petals of a morning glory or to hear a clap of thunder out of a summer breeze as to expect dynamite to find any disturbing element in this contribution which we present for your mental consideration, ethical absorption and aromatic delectation.

"The 39th annual convention of the Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"As an incidental duty connected with the annual Labor Congress meeting in session, the Union Labels Committee on Union Labels has been positively busy.

"Not one single resolution has been referred for its consideration. We refer to this regard this situation as an index of a declining interest, a cooling enthusiasm, or a wrong premise. An examination of the official report of departmental activity will speedily dissipate all such surmisings.

"The keynote of this document will, therefore, be one of congratulations to an administration whose untiring energies are being rewarded with the fine fruitage of a larger need of a still greater accomplishment with each passing year.

**Living Standards Raised Higher than Ever**

"Every worthwhile movement is distinguished by a symbol of some kind or other.

"The union label is the guiding star pointing the way out of the fog of industrial degeneracy. It is the flag which leads the procession of toiling masses from the darkness and miasmic valleys of low living standards into the highlands where opportunity reigns, where the fruits of comfort are available, and the enrichment of life which heart and mind and soul long for and find waiting within the reach of all."

"To secure the service is distinguished by a triple insignia—the Label, the Shop Card and the Service Button," said the Executive Council in its report.

"To prevent the introduction of excessive provisions for disqualification of workers from receiving benefits for reasons not valid otherwise be entitled. No disqualification should include the form of penalty now by the credits or charging of benefits as if they had been paid when they were withheld. Its provisions relating to voluntary quit, discharge for misconduct, refusal to take job, or any other cause should be more severe than an increase in the waiting period, not to exceed four additional weeks, and a pressure to keep benefit payments low for merit-rating purposes makes a qualifying measure. Labor is against increases in the grounds for or severity of disqualification provisions."

**Improvements of Union Label Trades Department**

"We have carefully examined the report of the Executive Board of the Union Label Trades Department to the Thirty-second Annual Convention held in Cincinnati on 28th and 29th days of last month.

"We shall not undertake anything like a complete review of its contents here. It is a document well calculated to challenge the earnest perusal of all who are interested in this special service line of a great cause. We will, however, make a few specific references:

"Generous support from all departments of organized labor has been accorded.

"Women's Auxiliaries have increased in number, and have uniformly given unqualified support.

"Fifty-four new charters have been issued to Union Label Leagues during the past year.

"Union Label weeks are rapidly becoming matters of special recognition in cities and towns in all parts of the country.

**Industrial Exposition Was Big Success**

The Union Label and Industrial Exhibition held in Music Hall, Cincinnati, in May, 1938, was crowned with signal success. No attempt at a repetition of this event has been scheduled for the current year on account of the World Fair which is in progress on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coast; but it has been decided that the understanding along this line will be attempted in 1940 and in the city which shall be finally selected as the seat of the Exposition of Labor Industries.

"Further, no single resolution has been referred for its consideration. We refer to this regard this situation as an index of a declining interest, a cooling enthusiasm, or a wrong premise. An examination of the official report of departmental activity will speedily dissipate all such surmisings.

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# A. F. of L. Considers Refusal of Three Companies to Recognize Molders Union

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, requested the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to intervene in behalf of the Molders' Union with three furnace companies and one stove company of Dowagiac, Michigan.

The alleged unfair attitude of these companies in refusing to deal with the union was presented to the convention in three resolutions introduced by Delegates Harry Stevenson, William Leishman, William Rapier, and Al Armbrust, of the International Molders' Union.

**Premier Furnace Company Refuses to Deal With Union**

The first resolution stated the union's grievance against the Premier Furnace Company as follows:

"The International Molders' Union of North America, after a strike at the Premier Furnace Company, Dowagiac, Michigan, entered into negotiations with the company which to all appearances meant the establishment of a union shop.

"Shortly after the settlement the company began to discriminate against men by laying off active members and other unfair tactics which resulted in another strike, the company declaring the course of which several men were sent to prison.

"The company has consistently refused to meet the representatives of the union and has refused to deal with it.

"The International Molders' Union has placed the company on the 'We Don't Patronize' list of the union."

**Rudy Furnace Company Bans Negotiation With Union**

The second resolution made these charges against the Rudy Furnace Company:

"For many months the International Molders' Union of North America has been conducting a strike against the Rudy Furnace Company, Dowagiac, Michigan, because of the refusal of the company to operate a union shop.

"The company refused to negotiate with the representatives of the union or with the Executive Board of the foundry and employers' association in charge of the negotiations with the Molders' Union.

"The Rudy Furnace Company, Dowagiac, Michigan, another non-union shop which was organized by members of Molders' Union of North America to place the products of this company on the 'We Don't Patronize' list."

**Round Oak Stove Company Discriminates Against Union Workers**

The third resolution made the following charges against the Round Oak Stove Company:

"The International Molders' Union of North America had organized the employes of the Round Oak Stove Company, Dowagiac, Michigan, after it had operated an open shop for years.

"After an agreement was reached between the union and the company to operate a union shop the union took this form off its 'We Don't Patronize' list.

"This firm through its supervisory force began to discriminate against the committee and active members.

"After several conferences between the union and the company, no effort was made to correct this situation by the union claiming that otherwise they would be forced to again place them on the 'We Don't Patronize' list which was carried out."

**Products of Companies Placed on "We Don't Patronize" List**

In an endeavor to mobilize the entire strength of the American Federation of Labor to persuade these companies to deal with the union, the resolution said that the International Molders' Union had placed the products of each company on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the union and urged that the American Federation of Labor convention endorse such action and "recommend that all city central and State bodies and individual local unions be notified of this action."

**Referred to Executive Council**

The resolutions committee of the Molders' Union the Committee on Industrial Relations made the following report, which the convention adopted:

"Your committee has carefully considered resolutions 11, 12 and 13, and is incomplete accord with these resolutions and feel that these firms should be given an opportunity to meet the dealings with the International Molders' Union of North America in order to destroy legitimate unionization in their plants.

"Hereupon, inasmuch as the American Federation of Labor has not been called on or requested to attempt an adjustment of these difficulties, and that those matters should be referred to the incoming Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor with a recommendation that they use their good offices in an attempt to bring about a satisfactory settlement, so that justice may prevail instead of strife between these companies and the International Iron Molders' Union of North America.

"Your committee also recommends that in the event of the failure of that

# A. F. L. SUPPORTS CENSUS OF HOUSING

## Information Will Be of Practical Use in Preparing Long-Range Housing for the Masses.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

Support of the Federal census of housing authorized by the first session of the seventy-sixth Congress was expressed by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Census Backed By President Green**

"This important matter was brought to the attention of the convention by the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, which said:

"On March 3, 1939, President Green communicated with Senator Robert F. Wagner, pointing out that in connection with the various housing measures in which the Federal Government participates, there has developed a pressing need for reliable information on all phases of housing conditions in the United States.

"President Green emphasized that to insure the most economical, efficient and satisfactory development of our housing and home building programs, it is essential that a complete housing census be undertaken at the earliest possible date, and that if such a housing census were to yield information of practical value from the standpoint of long range planning, it should be taken simultaneously and in conjunction with the census of population of 1940. In view of the fact that Senator Wagner to introduce legislation authorizing a complete housing census and providing the necessary appropriation for that purpose.

**Senator Wagner Introduced Census Bill**

"In response to this request, on April 25, 1939, Senator Wagner introduced S. 2392 and S. 2393 which authorized the Director of the Census to take a census of housing in the year 1940 and the next five years thereafter to provide information concerning the number, character, and geographical distribution of dwelling structures and dwelling units in the United States, including data on the social and economic characteristics of their ownership and use, necessary to aid the formulation of a national housing program and in the administration of housing legislation.

"The bill was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency on June 21 with an authorization of an appropriation not to exceed $750,000. The bill was unanimously passed by the Senate on June 23, referred to the House Committee on Banking and Currency, favorably reported out of that committee on June 26 reducing the appropriation to $400,000. The bill was passed by the House on August 4 and signed by the President on August 11, 1939. (Public No. 385.)

**Facts on Housing Will Be Secured**

"The measure, initiated by the American Federation of Labor, will make possible a nation-wide housing census to be taken in connection with the decennial census of population in the year 1940. By taking a housing census in conjunction with the general census of population it will be possible to employ the same enumerators and thereby fill a vital need for factual information by the most economical and efficient method at only a fraction of the expense such a census would have required in any other year."

**Praised by Building Trades Committee**

Commenting on the success of the American Federation of Labor in suggesting and securing the enactment of the Wagner-Steagall Bill, the committee on Building Trades submitted the following report on the "Housing" Census," to the convention adopted:

"Under this caption on pages 121 and 122 of the Report of the Executive Council is a history of the passage of Senate Bill 2392 introduced by Senator Wagner at the request of President Green. This bill makes provision for the taking of a nation-wide housing census in conjunction with the decennial census of population in 1940, and every five years thereafter.

"Your committee commends the action of the officers of the American Federation of Labor in requesting this legislation and on the effort expended in securing its enactment into law. It is believed that this will be the first forward step toward securing the actual facts regarding housing conditions in the United States, and in preparation for long range plans for the building program to meet the needs of our people for homes in keeping with American standards of living and recommends the adoption of the report."

# WAUKESHA MACHINISTS WIN BARGAINING PACT

Waukesha, Wis. (AFLWNS).—Officials of Local 1377 of the International Association of Machinists of L. affiliate, and spokesmen for the Waukesha Motor Company announced the signing of contracts on August 22, ended which ended a 50-day-old strike called by the union.

The contract recognized the union as exclusive bargaining agent for men in the 250,000 square foot plant, and provided higher wages based on a survey of wage rates.

There was included in the agreement provision for adjustments and arbitration of rates which were "out of line."

Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to obtain such a satisfactory settlement that the unreasonable attitude of these companies be given the widest publicity possible by notifying organized labor and affiliated bodies of the actions taken by these firms in order that labor may be advised as to the methods employed which to spend

# American Federation of Labor Approves Activities of Social Security Committee

## Its Studies Have Made Valuable Contributions To Amending the Social Security Program.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The American Federation of Labor Committee on Social Security, consisting of Third Vice President Matthew Woll, Seventh Vice President G. M. Bugniazet, and President John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Department, were highly commended by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, for their work in studying the problems involved in social security from the viewpoint of those whose incomes are derived from wages and making recommendations to the Federation for progressive changes in the social security laws.

In recommending the continuation of the committee, the convention said:

"The Committee on Social Security appointed by the Executive Council has excellent work in studying the proposed amendments to the Social Security Act and in representing the interests of labor before both House and Senate Committee hearings on unemployment compensation, old age insurance, public assistance programs and public health programs. The American Federation of Labor expects this Committee to study security laws in operation so as to be able to recommend satisfactory principles and formulae and to suggest needed changes.

**Represented A. F. of L. on Social Security Advisory Council**

"The members of the Committee on Social Security acted as the representatives of the American Federation of Labor on the Advisory Council on Social Security, appointed by the Senate Special Committee on Social Security and the Social Security Board in May, 1937.

"The final report of this Advisory Council was presented in December, 1938. The study included Titles II and VIII of the Social Security Act which deal with Federal Old Age Benefits. The recommendations of the Council formed the basis for most of the liberalization in the benefits which have put old age security on a family rather than an individual basis, and the change in the tax and reserve provisions which were included in the amendments to the Act this year.

"Members of the Social Security Board and Congressmen alike praised the Advisory Council for their painstaking study. We wish to thank our own representatives for their share in this work.

**Social Security Program Must Be Protected Against Anti-Labor Sentiment**

"Labor is confident that the Social Security program will be improved further in later sessions of Congress. We need studies of unemployment compensation and of disability as carefully thorough as those made for old age by the Advisory Council. While the public health program is being prepared for its next presentation to Congress, Labor should demand that its provisions particularly those relating to industrial hygiene, conform to our program.

"Social Security is peculiarly Labor's program. We must be prepared to protect the interests of the workers in every division of the program before it takes final shape as well as watching its operation and proposing needed amendments. In both National and State legislative sessions the American Federation of Labor must help defend the rights of workers against the rising anti-labor sentiment which has manifested itself in proposals designed to hamper unions and reduce the security already won."

# A. F. of L. Starts Campaign To Raise Unemployment Compensation Standards

(Continued from Page 1)

trends. Much more remains to be done.

The American Federation of Labor believes that the waiting period should not exceed one week, that benefits should be so large that the employed workers for twenty weeks in the year, that the weekly benefit check should be no less than half the worker's full-time weekly wage within limits of $5.00 and $20.00 and that disqualifications should be no more severe than an increase in the waiting period, not to exceed four weeks. Until these standards are effective, we will oppose tax reductions.

**Unemployment Compensation Advisory Committee Urged**

At the last session of Congress, the American Federation of Labor supported a bill to establish a representative advisory committee to study unemployment compensation. The Social Security Committee has made a notable contribution to the old age insurance sections of the law, and needs a similar careful study for unemployment compensation. We urge that each State Federation use its influence with the senators and representatives from its State to secure the passage for a bill to provide an advisory committee and their votes against any reduction in the whole plan of unemployment compensation until the committee can make a thorough study of the unemployment compensation system and brought in its recommendations for amendments to the Federal law.

In the meantime, you will, I know, continue your efforts for improved benefit standards in your own State.

# A. F. of L. Units Warned Not To Aid Lewis's Labor's Non-Partisan League

(Continued from Page 1)

partisan political policy, by the American Federation of Labor itself. We have decided to support candidates whom it will support and those whom it will oppose for election to office. Its political policy will be based upon the attitude of candidates for office toward legislation sponsored and approved by the American Federation of Labor by those elected to office as well as by those who are candidates for office regardless of political affiliations.

In conformity with the instructions of the Convention I call upon all officers and members of the American Federation of Labor and all organizations chartered by the American Federation of Labor to refrain from having anything whatever to do with the C. I. O., or with Labor's Non-Partisan League. No officers or members of organizations chartered by the American Federation of Labor can support actions or decisions of American Federation of Labor Conventions except membership in the C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League or give to said C. I. O. Labor's Non-Partisan League their official and moral support.

We admonish all those to whom this communication is addressed to carry out the decision of the Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor with respect to the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward Labor's Non-Partisan League. We appeal to the membership of the American Federation of Labor to comply with the decision of the American Federation of Labor which was arrived at in truly democratic fashion.

We must rely upon the membership of the American Federation of Labor to see to it that decisions of Conventions of the American Federation of Labor are carried into effect and to apply said decisions in the administrative affairs of our great Organized Labor Movement.

Fraternally yours,
WILLIAM GREEN, President,
American Federation of Labor.

## ILLINOIS LABOR SEEKS DU QUOIN BOYS PARDON

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—Reuben Soderstrom and Victor Olander, president and secretary, respectively, of the Illinois Federation of Labor, headed a union committee which recently met Governor Horner to plead for pardons for the five Du Quoin boys who were sentenced in 1933 in connection with the death of a schoolgirl following a clash between members of the Progressive Mine Workers and the United Mine Workers.

Verner G. Miller, father of the slain girl, joined in the clemency plea, saying that he thought the boys had served long enough. Also in the delegation visiting the Governor were Dave Reed, president of the Illinois district of the Progressive Mine Workers, and John Battiello, PMW board member.

The Governor indicated he would give the matter further advisement and told the committee he would ask for a complete report on the status of the case.

Petitions and resolutions asking the Governor to act favorably on the clemency plea are being circulated by the Du Quoin Miners Defense Committee, which has offices at Room 404, 549 W. Randolph St., Chicago.

## A. J. LOVELL, RAIL UNION LEADER, DIES

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Arthur J. Lovell, vice president and general representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, died at Garfield Hospital here on December 13th after undergoing an operation for appendicitis. He had been in poor health for years, and made only slight recovery after the emergency operation.

Mr. Lovell began his career in railroading as a young man and rose to a position of prominence with the Pennsylvania system. Debs being named vice president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen in 1918, he was general chairman of the organization for the system lines for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Mr. Lovell came to Washington in 1921 from Logansport, Indiana, to take on the added duties in representing the Brotherhood in legislative matters.

Born in Southampton, Ontario, Canada, he came to the United States as a young man and became a citizen in 1906.

He belonged to the Masonic Order, Knights Templar and the Shrine, affiliating with branches in Logansport and Indianapolis.

Funeral services were held at his home in Silesia, Maryland. Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery.